# 600 armed civilians circle abductors' lair

By Julie Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—SOME 600 ARMED civilians have joined military troops in cordoning off Barangay Tabiq Dunda in Indanan, Sulu, where the three kidnapped aid workers of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are believed held by their captors, the mayor of Jolo, Sulu, said yesterday.

Mayor Hussin Amin told the Inquirer that the armed civilians would provide

600 ARMED / A6

**BUSINESS/ B1**
**Forex reserves** hit historic high of $39.56B

**WORLD/ A19**
**Cooing over US** octuplets turns to public anger

**WORLD/ A19**
**India: Pakistan spy** agency behind attacks in Mumbai last November

**LIFESTYLE/ D1**
**List of 17 songs** to fall in love with, literally

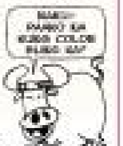
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Saturday, February 7, 2009 ★★ Sections / Vol. 24 / No. 61 P18 online: www.inquirer.net

**Reinvent wheel? Blue**
**Defusing a bomb? Red**

TRYING TO IMPROVE your performance at work or write that novel? Maybe it's time to consider the color of your walls or your computer screen.

If a new study is

REINVENT / A6



# Senate summons Mike A

## Miriam calls World Bank exec arrogant

By Michael Lim Ubac

SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR-SANtiago yesterday assailed the "hoity-toity" World Bank and announced that she would resume her inquiry into the purported rigged bidding for projects that it was funding.

Santiago said she had scheduled a hearing on Feb. 12 and that her committee on economic affairs had sent out invitations to the public figures implicated in the purported collusion in the bidding for the National Road Improvement and Management Program 1 (NRIMP 1).

Those invited are Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, Prospero Pichay and Jacinto Paras, former representatives of Surigao and Negros Occidental, respectively; Florante Soriquez, former secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways; and Lope Adriano, Tito Miranda and Roy Bellosa, project director, assistant director and alleged broker, respectively, of the DPWH.

Santiago terminated the inquiry after only one hearing on Jan. 27, saying it was an "exercise in futility" because of the resource persons' stonewalling.

Yesterday, she described World Bank

SENATE / A6



DESPERATELY SEEKING OBAMA Despite traveling practically around the world to make it to Washington for the National Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, purchance to meet its keynote speaker, President Obama, President Arroyo does not. And the disappointment shows on her face even if she's sitting next to US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi as they listen to Obama speak.

## GMA fails to meet Obama for 3rd time

By TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO failed anew to have a chat, much less to shake hands with US President Barack Obama at last Thursday's annual gathering of members of the US Congress in Washington, DC.

Ms Arroyo made an unscheduled trip to Washington to attend the National Prayer Breakfast that invited Obama as guest speaker, fueling speculations back home that finally, she would get to meet the American leader.

But the much-awaited moment did not happen.

The annual National Prayer Breakfast was seen as the best opportunity for President Arroyo to meet Obama after attempts to seek an audience with him before and after he was elected US president failed.

The meeting would have been a fitting cap to Ms Arroyo's seven-day swing through Davos, Switzerland, where she attended the World Economic Forum, then Italy, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

The President received the invitation to the event en route to Davos, al-

GMA FAILS / A6

## Obama hits foes: Time for talk over

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT Barack Obama fired a biting campaign-style attack on Republicans and the former Bush administration Thursday, seeking to drive his 900-billion-dollar stimulus plan through Congress.

As a debate in the Senate raced to a tense climax, the president rejected Republican complaints the package was too large and lacks sufficient tax cuts, seeking to turn his election win last November into political dominance.

He took his debut flight as president on Air Force One to a retreat of Democratic House of Representatives members in Virginia, and delivered the most combative and partisan speech since taking office last month.

In searing attacks on Republicans, Obama said Americans had not voted for "false theories of the past and they didn't vote for phony arguments and petty politics."

"They didn't vote for the status quo, they sent us here to

OBAMA / A8

## Gordon remembers how FedEx was won



BY DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT Those present at the creation of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and the arrival of its largest locator brave the chill of Thursday dawn to witness the departure of FedEx.

By Tonette Orejas
and Robert Gonzaga
Inquirer Central Luzon

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—DOZENS OF workers showed up here before dawn yesterday to bid goodbye to one of the last Federal Express (FedEx) planes to fly out of Subic.

Sen. Richard Gordon, who signed up the US courier giant to set up its Asia Pacific hub in Subic, was also here yesterday to wave goodbye to FedEx for the last time.

"I came here when I heard they were leaving. I said I had to be here. I was here at the very beginning," he told reporters.

Gordon, the first Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) chair, said that after he signed up FedEx to set up its hub here, DHL and UPS followed suit.

Surrounded by FedEx employees as

GORDON / A6



DESPERATION ON THE LINE The line is as long as the faces [Reah Uelan] at a job fair at the Paranaque city hall on Friday mobbed by thousands of jobseekers.

## Palace warns water body vs rate increase

By TJ Burgonio

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY warned the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) against implementing the rate increases being imposed this month by the two water concessionaires in Metro Manila.

The MWSS, the state regulator for water services which

PALACE / A7

## 2 convicted soldiers in Ninoy murder freed

By Miko Morelos

HERMINIA TARAN LEFT HER Novaliches home at around 4 a.m. yesterday to visit her jailed husband, Felizardo, one of the soldiers convicted for murdering opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. and his alleged assassin, Rolando Galman.

She left the New Bilibid Prison late last night with her husband, not quite believing he was going home after 25 years in jail.

Taran and another former soldier, Rolando de Guzman were ordered released yesterday after they were deemed to have served out their sentences.

They left the prison compound last night, saying goodbye to the other convicted soldiers who will continue to serve out their jail terms for the 1983 double murder.

2 CONVICTED / A6



PUT IT RIGHT THERE Prosecutor John Resado greets Joseph Tecson, one of the so-called Alabang Boys, at the resumption of the hearing of the Palace-created Independent Fact-Finding Committee which is probing allegations of bribery at the DOJ and PDEA's operational and enforcement services.

Second FRONTPAGE

LOTTO 6/42 — 11 28 29 23

SUERTRES — 5 5 5 / 9 3 4

FOUR DIGIT — 6 5 1 0 5 7 8

MEGALOTTO 6/45 — 1 5 22 23 36 40 — P26,669,224.80

# Alabang Boy's injuries 'self-inflicted'

## Arresting officer tells probers Brodett was bleeding after car chase

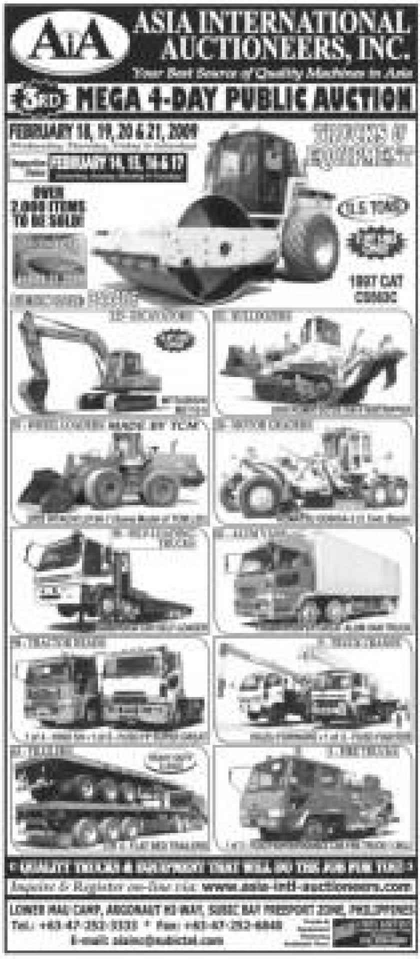
PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY operatives who arrested Richard Brodett, Jorge Joseph and Joseph Tecson, the so-called Alabang Boys, yesterday stood by their allegation that one of the drug suspects' injuries were self-inflicted during a buy-bust operation that led to his arrest.



PARENTS of Brodett and Tecson show pictures of their sons' injuries.

No retraction

## Executive Branch execs cleared to testify






# Jamby petitions court for control of aunt's fortune

# Tenor Nolyn Cabahug at ICU for kidney ailment

## Call for help

## Internationally acclaimed




# Korean deported







# Pagasa sees rainy weekend



# AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Dear Madame President:

Corruption in the government has reared its ugly head once again in light of the recent Senate investigations on government contracts where even contractors blacklisted no less by the World Bank have actually cornered a sizeable chunk of government's infrastructure projects.

Apart from casting an ominous, albeit appalling, reflection on the Philippines in the eyes of the international community, particularly from foreign funders, the issue has also undermined the constant efforts of your administration to rid this government of corruption.

Related to this, another multi-billion-peso major infrastructure project of the government is currently going through practically the same kind of wringer through the classic bid-rigging formula, where the Terms of Reference and Contract of the project is evidently grossly disadvantageous to the government.

We are particularly referring to the **25-Year North Harbor Modernization Project**.

We are raising the following questionable points on the multi-billion-peso project:

- Should the government's sovereign power to levy tariffs be sold to the lowest bidder?
- The bidding of the project was undertaken by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) under Republic Act No. 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act, but no approved government budget was earmarked for this undertaking as required under the same law, stipulated in Section 7 of the IRR-A of R.A. 9184
- The project does not involve any procurement of goods, infrastructure and consultancy services as mandated by Section 4 of R.A. 9184
- Since the source of the funding of the project is private, the more appropriate law to govern the project is Republic Act No. 7718 known as the "Act Authorizing the Financing, Construction, Operation, and Maintenance of Infrastructure Projects by the Private Sector"
- Major infrastructure projects of the government are usually implemented through the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) scheme or through straight Contract of Lease agreements. The privatizations of the country's major ports like MICT, Manila South Harbor, among others were previously undertaken through long-term Contract of Lease agreements. Why the sudden shift to a new and untested mode of privatizing a government port, conveniently clothed in the ambivalence of R.A. 9184?
- While the supposed winning bidder for the North Harbor Modernization Project has been drumbeating of investing PhP 10 billion in infrastructure and equipment to develop the North Harbor, there is no specific provision in the contract for the schedules of investments from Year 1 to Year 25. It is solely left to the discretion of the winning bidder.
- Nobody actually knows whether the PhP 10 billion investment commitment of the supposed winning bidder also include the PhP 6.8 billion that it will pay the PPA for 25 years representing fixed annual fees
- While the PPA did not require specific amount of investments on the winning bidder for the first three years of the contract to operate the Manila North Harbor, it has actually provided a grace period of three years within which the winning bidder can collect dues, tariffs, and charges from the port users for the use of government facilities and services in the Manila North Harbor. The grace period is meant for what? To recover the discretionary investments of the winning bidder for the Manila North Harbor modernization project? Or to ensure that private entity will have money to pay the annual fixed fee and make investments based on its collections and income derived from operating the port? Why such leeway?
- Somewhere in the bidding documents and project contract is a commitment by the winning private entity to shoulder the expenses depending on its own budget of developing and constructing the terminals and passenger terminal facilities of the Manila North Harbor. As to how long would this would take? Nobody knows as it was never made clear in the contract. PPA merely obligated the winning private entity to undertake a commitment and then granted the latter the big responsibility of unilaterally determining the appropriate budget.
- PPA did not sufficiently state in the terms of reference or in the contract how the winning bidder should go about the relocation of the informal settlers within the project zone, contrary to the provisions of R.A. 7279, otherwise known as the Comprehensive and Continuing Urban Development and Housing Program Act

Madame President, these are just some of the salient points in the Manila North Harbor modernization project that have clear traces of anomalies. There could be more if one is to look further into the details of the project's Terms of Reference and Contract.

With the North Harbor being a strategic and the biggest port of the entire country handling the biggest volume of cargo (15 million tons annually), risking its operations would be disastrous for the economy, there being no other practical alternative. We will end up with another PIATCO fiasco. At least with the NAIA Terminal III/PIATCO fiasco, we still had the existing Airport terminals to utilize. In the case of the North Harbor, there is none.

The irony for us groups of migrant workers is that part of the joint venture who appears to have the Manila North Harbor modernization project in the bag is the same company that developed a private port in the Port of Manila more than five years ago, a portion of whose funding was actually derived from the coffers of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA). Thus, when needy OFWs came to the doors of the OWWA for relief in the succeeding months, the agency was practically cash-strapped to be able to serve its flock in accordance with its mandate.

The last thing the Philippines wants at this point is to validate the findings of the World Bank that corruption in government infrastructure projects happens right at the project bidding. Blacklisting is such a tough word; it can actually leave a bad taste in the mouth.

We appeal to your good and keen judgment to look into this crucial issue as we have all the reasons to believe and evidences to prove that somebody is pulling a fast one on the government on the Manila North Harbor Modernization Project.

Thank you.

**Engr. Nelson P. Ramirez**
President, **United Filipino Seafarers**

**Engr. Gina Espinosa**
OIC, **Kaibigan ng OCWs, Inc.**

**Ms. Fe Nicodemus**
Chairperson, **KAKAMPI**

**Mr. Luther Calderon**
President, **KAMPI**

**Ms. Mildred Yamson**
Vice President, **Women in Development Foundation**

**Abolcair Guro**
VP, **Unlad Pinoy OFW**

# GMA fails to meet Obama for 3rd time




## Disappointed

## Escudero was there, too

## At the Four Seasons

## Kerry, Akaka, Inouye

## 'No big deal'

# Obama hits stimulus package Republican critics: Time for talk over

## 'Catastrophe'

## Time for action

## Jobless rising

# 600 armed civilians circle Abu Sayyaf's lair



## Firefight

## 'Fear gripping Sulu'

## 1 freed in Basilan

## Iron fist

# Senate summons Mike Arroyo

## Fixer identified as Public Works employee

By Kristine L. Alave

### Close to De Luna

### Confidentiality of Referral Report

### Ombudsman Gutierrez

### Where's the proof

### Skewed UN system

# Gordon fondly remembers how FedEx was won

### Winding down

### Business decision

### Largest tenant since 1995

### Generous separation pay

# 2 convicted soldiers in Ninoy murder freed

## WHAT WENT BEFORE

### Allowance for good behavior

### Job contract in Saudi

### Sharpshooter

### Still waiting

# Reinvent wheel? Blue Defusing a bomb? Red

### Creative blue

### Color associations

### Intensity of color

# *Free morphine tabs for cancer patients*

### More accessible

## PITCHING FOR BIOFUELS

# Go ethanol, motorists urged

### Cleansing effect

# Court rejects habeas corpus plea of Ces kidnap suspects

# Ombudsman asked to release NBN-ZTE report

# Palace warns MWSS ...

### Rate adjustments automatic

### Largest water privatization

## THE DAILY GOSPEL












INQUIRER

# OPINION

## Homework

EDITORIAL



## Who's to blame for the financial crisis?

PUBLIC LIVES

*Randy David*

## Syndicated corruption

GET REAL

*Solita Collas-Monsod*

# Larger families suffer more hunger

**SOCIAL CLIMATE**



*Mahar Mangahas*

# ICT4E

**COMMENTARY**

*Butch Hernandez*

# BNPP: Awakening a sleeping monster

**COMMENTARY**

*Felicito C. Payumo*

# Gypsy days

**YOUNG BLOOD**

*Hannah Jo Uy*

**NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS**

## SSS funds to be used for stimulus package

## Pea-brained Arroyo administration

LETTERS

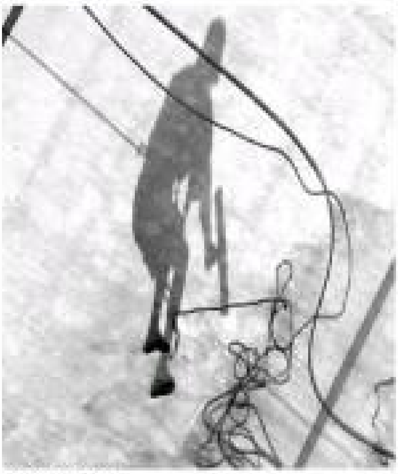
## Zuño's demand not ridiculous

## Inquirer got wrong facts, editorial's insinuation unjust

## PVAO accused of giving claimant the runaround

## Price of doing one's job

# Villagers rally to revive 'Alsa Masa'



HANGING BY A WIRE

## Defeated bet turns to SC on poll case

## Vizcaya 'jueteng' flourishes

### Shifting operations

### Police warning



## MediaScape launches Cignal Digital TV service

INQUIRER Visayas

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Ethelyn L. Bacaltos

# Antipoverty projects get final push

By Vicente Labro
Tacloban City

A WORLD BANK-ASSISTED project to combat poverty in Eastern Visayas is now on its final chapter after six years of bringing development projects to poor communities.

The Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (Kalahi-CIDSS), a national government project that covers more than 180 municipalities in the 42 "poorest of the poor" provinces in the country, was launched in Eastern Visayas in 2003.

It has covered more than 900 barangays in 34 towns in Leyte, Samar, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar and Biliran.

Implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development and funded by a $100-million loan from the World Bank, the project is expected to end on June 30.

As of December last year, more than 600 sub-projects with a total cost of over P400,000 each have been completed. These included school buildings, health stations, day care centers, farm-to-market roads, hanging bridges, potable water supply, flood control, electrification and irrigation facilities, fish sanctuaries, pre- and post-harvest facilities, solar dryers and multipurpose buildings.

Celeste B. Madlos, Kalahi-CIDSS regional project manager, disclosed that in 2008 alone, 161 of the 164 sub-projects targeted were completed at a cost of some P166 million.



A KALAHI-CIDSS flood-control project costing nearly a million pesos in a village in Lapaz, Leyte.

### Praises

With the project nearing its end, she said she would like to ensure the active involvement of the municipal coordinating teams hired by the local government units to oversee the unfinished sub-projects and ensure the sustainability of completed ones.

The Kalahi-CIDSS has earned praises for its participatory and community-driven approaches that were seen to have improved transparency and accountability and reduced corruption in local governance.

"I think we are progressing quite well in terms of partnership with the municipal coordinating team," Madlos said, adding that safeguards would be in place to take care of the facilities that would be left in the communities. "From the very start we instilled upon the community volunteers that they should take care of the projects."

The sub-projects are financed through grants (70 percent), but the municipal and provincial governments have to put up counterpart funds, as well as community contributions (30 percent).

In the implementation, Nell Morales, social marketing officer of the regional Kalahi-CIDSS, said the villagers were encouraged to set priorities in their needs, design the development project, and decide on how resources were to be used.

### Lessons learned

At first, the Kalahi-CIDSS conducted training and workshop sessions to strengthen the capabilities of the communities and LGUs in brokering, planning, implementing, managing and supervising the projects.

The Barangay Sub-Project Management Committee (BSPMC), which is composed of volunteers selected by the community, oversees the project implementation and reports to the people, Morales said.

"The village people regularly hold assemblies not only to discuss what sub-project to undertake but also on how the money is being spent and to air their grievances, if any, once the sub-project implementation is already going on," he said.

Morales said that many rural roads and bridges, including hanging bridges that were built under the Kalahi-CIDSS project, have now made travel to other places more convenient to the students, farmers and other residents.

With the water supply projects, the villagers not only save time and money in fetching potable water, but also make it safe, especially for children, from water-borne diseases.

Through the school buildings, health stations and day care centers, health and education are now accessible to them, Morales said.

"What we will leave behind is what we taught the communities, particularly on how to manage the projects and how to respond to problems," said Leticia Corillo, DSWD regional director and concurrent Kalahi-CIDSS regional project director.

"We may not have direct assistance that would augment their (poor families) income, but in terms of accessibility of the barangay to development, we have provided them [that]," Corillo said.

# SPORTS

**Speed demon Tiu eyes drag racing's triple crown**

# Harbour, Magnolia look to stars in crucial Game 3

# Lakers end another Celtics run



# Miller triple rescues Aces

## Alaska takes 3-2 lead vs TNT

# MVP Williams named PSA top pro cager



WILLIAMS

# POC adamant on 100 golds

## No punching picnic for the Pacman

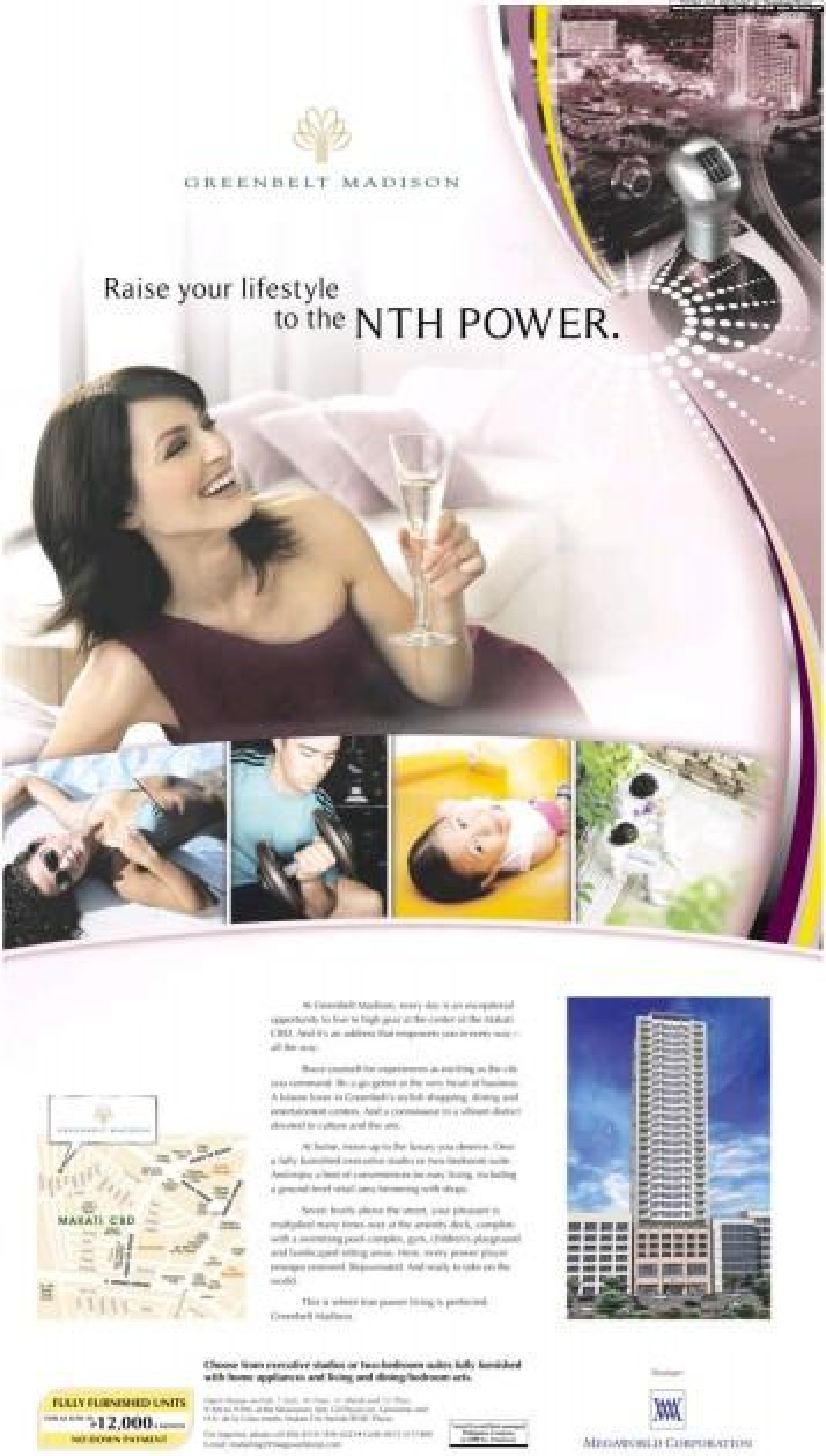
BARE EYE



*Recah Trinidad*

# RP women's futsal players quit en masse

# Shin grabs slim lead over Ikeda


GREENBELT MADISON
Raise your lifestyle to the NTH POWER.
MAKATI CBD
FULLY FURNISHED UNITS
₱12,000
NO DOWN PAYMENT
MEGAWORLD CORPORATION

Aplus METRO




# Rodriguez mayor ordered to stop dump's operation

## DENR cites risks to environment

By DJ Yap

RODRIGUEZ MAYOR PEDRO CUERPO HAS been ordered by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to stop the alleged operations of an illegal dump in his town.

### Appeal filed

### Threat to water supply



### Sunday's Super Lotto prize seen to reach P130M






# Lim, PDEA sign pact to boost fight vs drugs

By Erika Sauler

# Why is Mike Arroyo not with GMA in US trip?

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo



# Korean 'surrenders' to cops after using Ecstasy



# Rob victim much better but needs financial help

By DJ Yap



# Barangay aide responding to help call mauled to death

By Julie M. Aurelio



## MetroBriefs

### Beware of 'colored' fish

### Seminar on NGOs

### Zamboangueños meeting set

### UPHLP alumni homecoming

## Rodriguez . . .

### Prohibited

# The WORLD

## WORLDBRIEFS

### Kyrgyzstan says decision to close US base final

### Iraq prime minister is big winner in vote

### Study: Fertility drugs and ovarian cancer not linked

### Colombia's FARC rebels free hostage lawmaker

# India: Pakistan spy agency behind attacks in Mumbai

NEW DELHI—INDIA FOR THE FIRST TIME DIrectly accused Pakistan's military intelligence agency of involvement in the Mumbai attacks, amid reports Islamabad's own probe will suggest the assault was planned in Bangladesh.

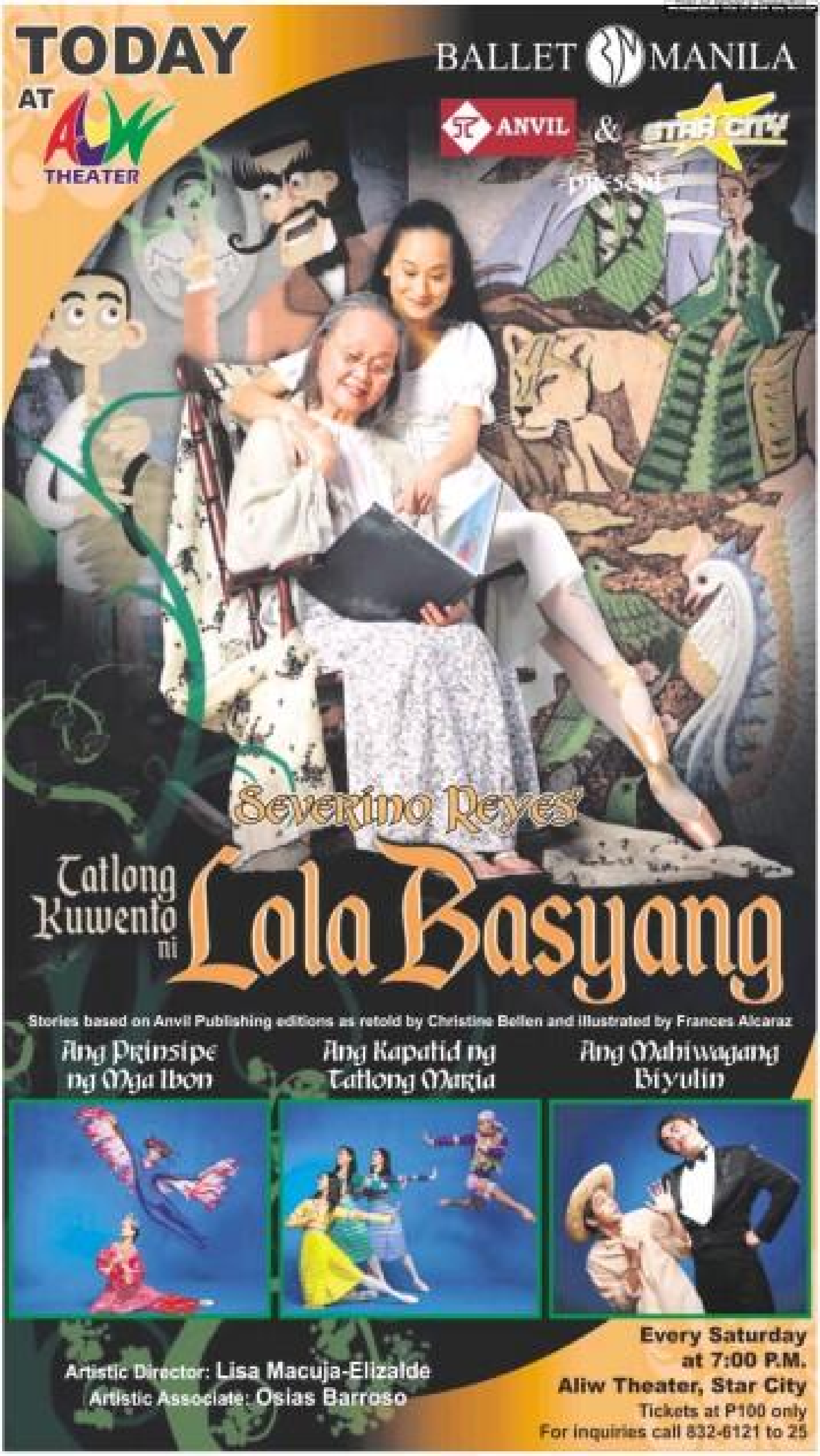
AFP

# Cooing over US octuplets turns to anger

AFP

## Women set to surpass men in US labor force

AFP


TODAY
AT
ALIW
THEATER
BALLET MANILA
ANVIL
&
STAR CITY
PRESENT
Severino Reyes'
Tatlong Kuwento ni
Lola Basyang
Stories based on Anvil Publishing editions as retold by Christine Bellen and illustrated by Frances Alcaraz
Ang Prinsipe ng Mga Ibon
Ang Kapatid ng Tatlong Maria
Ang Mahiwagang Biyulin
Artistic Director: Lisa Macuja-Elizalde
Artistic Associate: Osias Barroso
Every Saturday
at 7:00 P.M.
Aliw Theater, Star City
Tickets at P100 only
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IN THIS ISSUE
■ PNB reports 25% decline in '08 profit to P1.12B /B2
■ BOC collection in Jan. seen short of goal /B6

# BUSINESS

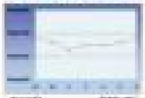


# Forex reserves hit historic high of $39.56B

## End-January level boosted by gov't bond float, Transco sale

THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC crunch may have sent some countries worrying about their liquidity positions, but the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said a shrinking foreign

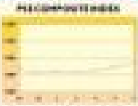
CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



### Stocks up 2.7%

# Higher farm output key to growth in '09

# Maynilad to pursue rate hike bid

# PNB reports 25% decline in '08 profit to ₱1.12B

By Doris C. Dumlao

## 'Accounting losses' on currency swaps

# Miners seen to buck slowdown




## Forex . . .

## Stocks . . .

## Maynilad




## Philippine Stock Exchange

## Currencies

# SCIENCE/HEALTH

## Kids, the elderly told to brace for flu arrival

### Risk

### Viral origins

### Family affected

## Quit while you're ahead, scientists urge Pac Man



PACQUIAO

### Insufficient academic milieu

## The voice for the job



DISCOVER

### Effects of vocal cues

### Conditional warmer

# Asia stocks rise on hopes for massive US stimulus

## Oil slips 25 cents to $40.92 a barrel

## Grim corporate figures underline global crisis



## Higher ...

# BUSINESS

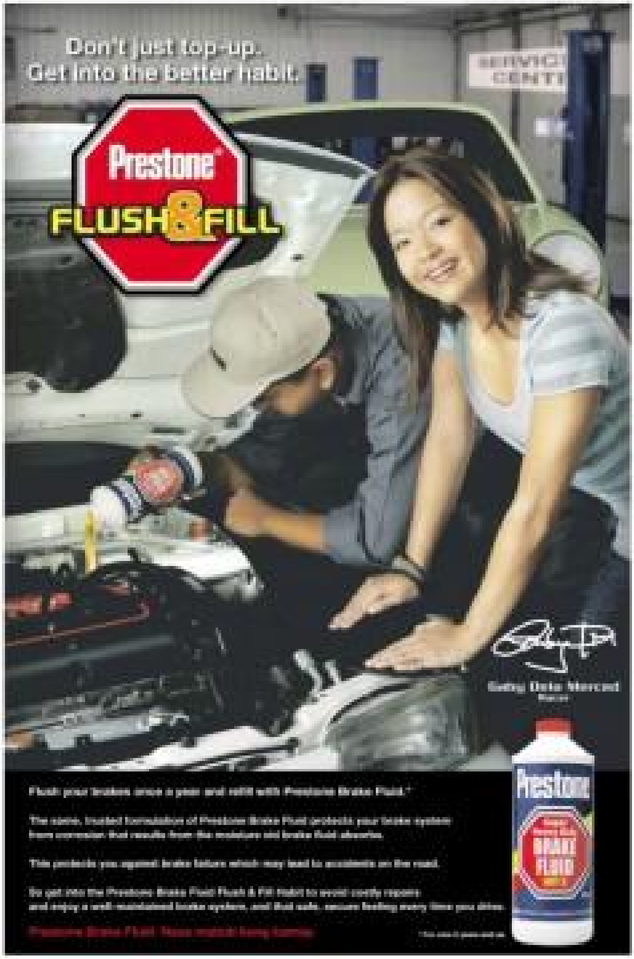
## BOC collection in Jan. seen short of goal




### Likelihood of meeting full-year target remote, says official

## Subic expects 15% seaport revenue growth

By Abigail L. Ho

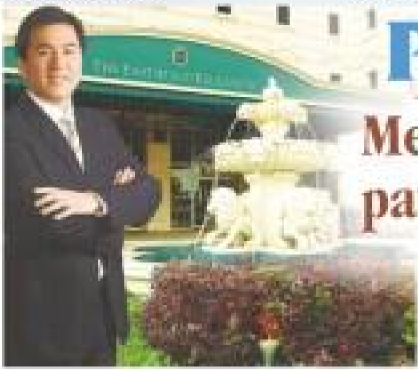



## World rice supply seen adequate, prices stable

## PSALM eyes sale of all gov't power plants in '09

# PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang



# Megaworld sees rough patches as fertile grounds

By Tessa R. Salazar

IN BOOM TIMES, ANYbody can sell a condo. It's during the rough times that the "men stand out from the boys."

The country's largest mid-income residential developer, the largest BPO office builder and the second largest Philippine developer by market value believes that its "weather-tested key strategies" not only help the company survive but enable it to thrive in especially difficult times.

Kingson Sian, executive director of Megaworld Corp., revealed to Inquirer Property in a recent interview three key strategies, including focusing on the middle class, building "24/7 cities" with business process outsourcing industries and establishing live-work-play communities with as little exposure to the flagging US and overseas markets as possible.

Megaworld has built more than two million square meters of space for residential properties ranging

MEGAWORLD B4



SUBURBAN vertical living hits a new high at Presidio's Neo-Victorian residential towers.



VIBRANT homes, special amenities and round-the-clock security make La Posada an enchanted, family-friendly neighborhood.

# A thriving community comes to life at Lakefront

### San Francisco-inspired don't

### Commercial features

# Cautious investors find safe haven in good real estate projects

### Residential units

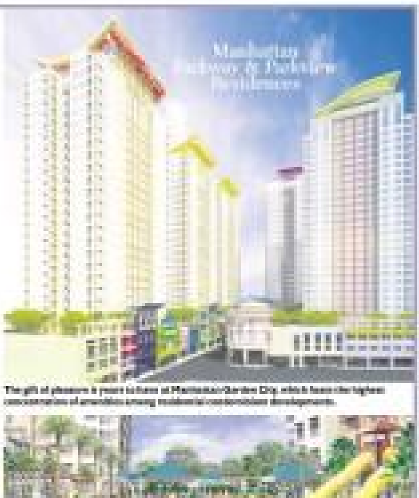
### Latest don't

# Many homebuyers fall in love with The Venice



THE PLANNED Grand Canal at the Venetian Mall is just one reason for many buyers to fall in love with The Venice Luxury Residences.

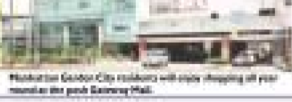
# Give the gift of pleasure at Manhattan Garden City



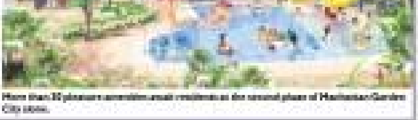

The gift of pleasure is yours to share at Manhattan Garden City, which hosts the highest concentration of amenities among residential condominium developments.



Residents can do yoga exercises amidst the lush greeneries of Manhattan Garden City.



Manhattan Garden City residents will enjoy shopping at the posh Gateway Mall.



More than 30 pleasure amenities await residents at the second phase of Manhattan Garden City alone.

# More efficient way to light up your homes

By Charles E. Buban







### Improved popularity

### High quality

### Energy efficient

# Megaworld sees rough patches as fertile grounds

### '24/7 cities'

### 'Stand-alone' biz com

### Definite edge

### Resilient middle class

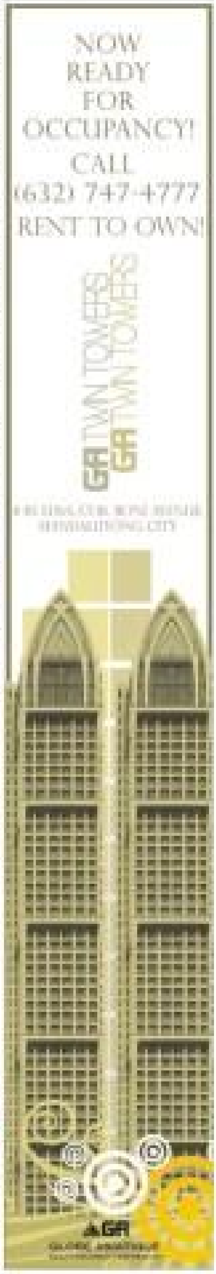
Sian was quick to dispel predictions of massive BPO vacancies



## DEXTERTON opens shop in GB5







# Property

## Manufactured homes

Living Architecture

Manolo de Guzman Jr.







### Prefabricated shells

### Can be relocated

Manufactured homes are made of lightweight materials, wood and dry wall

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Win an iPod touch! /C4

# Have a budget-friendly Valentine

It hardly matters if you have zero, P500, P1000 or P5000, you can have a day to remember

By [illegible]

ZERO. IF YOU'RE A STUdent or are just starting out, chances are you're broke. You don't have to spend a lot to make your date happy. Be creative. Some ideas might be corny, but so what? Valentine's day is all about being corny.

1. **Take something at home.** [illegible]



2. **Bring out the board games.** [illegible]

3. **Check out exhibits.** [illegible]

4. **Picnic under the stars.** [illegible]

5. **Take photos.** [illegible]

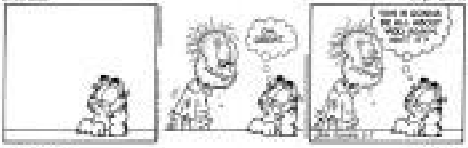
**500 pesos**

[illegible]

1. [illegible]

[illegible] C4

## GARFIELD



## A. LIPIN




## PUGAD BABOY



## DICK TRACY



## LOVESHOTS



## JAMES BOND



## DIVINE COMEDY



## BABY BLUES



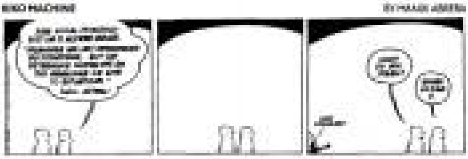
## ATOMO AND WEBBY



## TULDOK



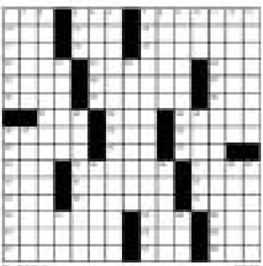
## KIKO MACHINE



## BEN



## DAILY CROSSWORD



## HOROSCOPE

## CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 5 | 9 | | | | | |
| | | 6 | | | | 8 | | |
| 1 | 9 | | | | 8 | | 3 | |
| 6 | | | | 4 | | 2 | | |
| | | | 7 | | 5 | | | |
| | | 2 | | 6 | | | | 1 |
| | 1 | | 6 | | | | 9 | 4 |
| | | 4 | | | | 6 | | |
| | | | | | 2 | 7 | | |

Difficulty Level ★★★★

### HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Answer to previous puzzle

# Have a budget-friendly Valentine

# Everything's coming up roses

What do rose-gifts mean? Check the color, the number, and the presentation








VALENTINE PROMO

# Win an iPod Touch!

Just answer this question creatively. Which iPod touch App would you like to enjoy with your significant other and why?

**This week's winner**

super LifeStyle
style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation



# Best make out music

## Here's a list of 17 songs to fall in love with, literally



By Quark Henares

RIGHT NOW, ONE of the words most tossed around in current Filipino slang is MOMOL, which stands for "Make Out Make Out Lang" and is used to describe relationships of a more—physical nature.

[illegible]

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

## Where to Stop Where to Go

# Precious moments at the Pavilion's Rotisserie



## Intercon's splendored Valentine celebrations

## Valentine rendezvous at Hyatt Hotel

## A.Venue Hotel Suites fabulous hearts day

## Sweet Suite Valentines at Hotel Celeste

## Early Valentine treats at Marco Polo Davao

## Hot Hearts Valentine sizzles at Sofitel

## Affordable royalty

## 'Romantic suggestions'

## Provincial Hotels Directory

# Valentine for singles: A primer

Remember there is strength and comfort in numbers

Valentine singles party ideas

# Check your sun sign, pick a partner

Basics

Elemental compatibility

Quick guide

# Tours, Leisure & Chow

## Have a Richmonde romance



## Happy in Love at The Bellevue

## Century Park Hotel celebrates the love month

## Month-long Valentine's at City Garden Hotel Makati

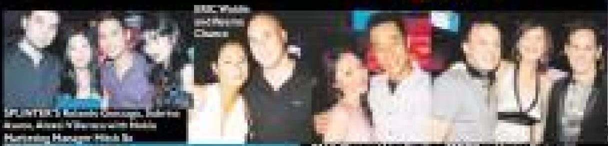
## Suite affair February

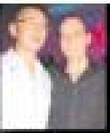


## Sweet Valentine at Torre Venezia

## Kasalang Filipino 2009 marks Tagaytay as int'l wedding hub

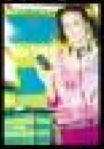
# Manila dances to the beat of new music player





ALLIANCE Française director Olivier Ebrsinger and William Hamilton-Whyte, General Manager, Nokia Philippines

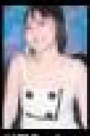




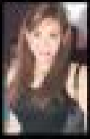
DJ Andy Daniels







KATE Torralba



GRETCHEN Fulido

# 24/7 SUPER RADAR

## Great spa discounts

## Tasty Portugal

## They rock

## Romantic yacht tour

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

# SATURDAY Special



# New 'teleseryes' heat up ratings race



RIVERA AND DANTES. Reunited in GMA-7's "Ang Babaeng Hinugot sa Aking Tadyang."

By Nestor U. Torre

WE CAUGHT THE OPENING episodes of two new teleseryes early this week—"May Bukas Pa" on ABS-CBN and "Ang Babaeng Hinugot sa Aking Tadyang" on GMA-7. Our initial notes:

"May Bukas Pa" is about a foundling left at the door of a monastery. Since the monks and worshippers [illegible] the biggest [illegible] about the baby boy's parents' whereabouts, they decide to care for the child themselves. Shades of "Marcelino, Pan y Vino"? Perhaps, but the material is reworked and elaborated on a lot in this Pinoy retelling.

## Troubled character

The monks may be in the dark, but the new show's viewers are provided with tantalizing hints and clues about the boy's possible backstory. But, it's still too early to come to any clear conclusions, so give Dina Bonnevie's troubled character time to further establish her possible link to the foundling with more "meaningful" reaction shots.

Much of the new series is pretty melodramatic, but that's par for the teleserye course. What's different about it is its focus on the boy-monks relationship, which is occasionally heartwarming and sometimes even touching.

Still, we must note that some of the actors playing the monks are rather campy and [illegible] in disposition. Perhaps this is the show's way of being with it and trendy, but the overacting occasionally rankles.

"May Bukas Pa" is a good showcase for the new child actor who plays the foundling as a growing boy. He's not as portentous and fake poseur as other child actors in these parts and is good at tugging at viewers' heartstrings. His biggest liability is the fact that the script gives him too many "wise" lines to say. This is local TV's notion of how "lively" child characters should speak...and it also [illegible].

## Controversial love team

GMA-7's "Ang Babaeng Hinugot sa Aking Tadyang" made a bigger splash when it, too, debuted last Monday, because it exploits the currently popular and controversial love team of Dingdong Dantes and Marian Rivera.

Its opening episode was eye-catching, because it focused on Dingdong's hunky body...and introduced Marian as a mysterious woman who stole into Dingdong's bachelor pad and slithered into his bed

NEW B2

CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555

# MOVIEWORLD

**ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE**

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

## GALLERIA

1 DOUBT
2 MARLEY & ME
3 MY BLOODY VALENTINE
4 MILK
5 SEVEN POUNDS
6 UNDERWORLD 3
7 STATUS: SINGLE
8 VIOLATOR COPY: The Marcus Adoro Rock...
9 BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA / AUSTRALIA
10 INKHEART

## ERMITA

1 AUSTRALIA
2 MILK
3 MARLEY & ME
4 UNDERWORLD 3
5 SEVEN POUNDS
6 INKHEART
7 MY BLOODY VALENTINE
8 SAW V / STATUS: SINGLE
9 BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA

## METRO EAST

1 MY BLOODY VALENTINE
2 SEVEN POUNDS
3 MARLEY & ME
4 YES MAN
5 SAW V
6 UNDERWORLD 3
7 INKHEART
8 STATUS: SINGLE

## NOVALICHES

1 SEVEN POUNDS
2 UNDERWORLD 3
3 MARLEY & ME
4 STATUS: SINGLE

## PIONEER

1 SEVEN POUNDS
2 INKHEART
3 MARLEY & ME
4 MY BLOODY VALENTINE



## STA. ROSA

1 UNDERWORLD 3
2 TRANSPORTER 3
3 THE ABANDONED
4 MARLEY AND ME

## LIPA

1 SAW V
2 THE HAUNTING of MOLLY HARTLEY
3 YES MAN
4 STATUS: SINGLE

## DASMARIÑAS

1 STATUS: SINGLE
2 SEVEN POUNDS
3 MARLEY AND ME
4 UNDERWORLD 3

## IMUS

1 MARLEY AND ME
2 UNDERWORLD 3
3 STATUS: SINGLE
4 SEVEN POUNDS

## ANGELES

1 UNDERWORLD 3
2 BRIDE WARS
3 SAW V
4 TRANSPORTER 3

## STARMILLS

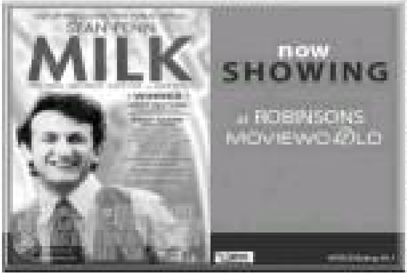
1 BRIDE WARS
2 LOVE ME AGAIN
3 THE ABANDONED
4 STATUS: SINGLE
5 UNDERWORLD 3
6 TRANSPORTER 3

## BACOLOD

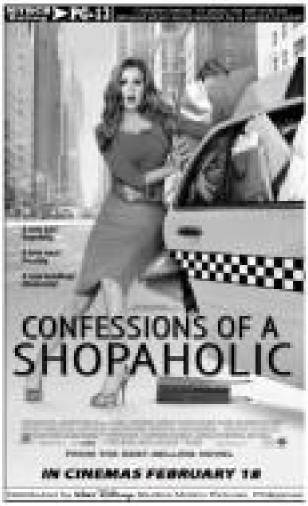
1 THE HAUNTING of MOLLY HARTLEY
2 SAW V
3 BRIDE WARS
4 INKHEART
5 THE CURIOUS CASE of BENJAMIN BUTTON
6 STATUS: SINGLE

## ILOILO

1 YES MAN
2 SAW V
3 STATUS: SINGLE
4 INKHEART
5 BEVERLY HILLS CHIHUAHUA
6 AUSTRALIA





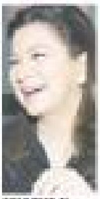



E3 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2009



# Those magnificent Brits

# New 'teleseryes'...



### Decisions

# All about love on 'Oprah'

From page E1

which will be launched with a show at Music Museum tonight. On Feb. 14, Ava Peñalosa, Anthony Castelo and Victor Wood sing romantic songs at the CAP Auditorium in Quezon City. On Feb. 21, they perform at the Thunderbird Resort, Rizal, then at Music Museum again on Feb. 27 and 28. Call Vive Concerts and Events at 687-4181 loc. 428.

**Angel Peña's music**

Tomorrow at 6 p.m. at the Philamlife Theater, "A Man and His Music" showcases the compositions of composer and jazz icon, Angel Martin Peña. Featured are the Manila Symphony Orchestra, Camille Lopez-Molina, Pablo Molina and Michael Guevarra. Call 524-9713.

**Movies on TV**

On HBO today at 6:32 p.m., "World Trade Center." Tomorrow at 9 p.m., "Heartbreak Kid." Feb. 9 at 8 p.m., "The Secret Garden." Feb. 10 at 1 p.m., "Fun with Mozzarella." Feb. 11 at 11 a.m., "Only You." Feb. 12 at 7 a.m., "Parenthood." Feb. 13 at 5 p.m., "To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday."

On Cinemax today at 9 a.m., "Lady in the Water." Tomorrow at 7 a.m., "Dungeons: Liaisons." Feb. 9 at 11 p.m., "Key Plaza Bad Hotel." Feb. 10 at 5 p.m., "Wishes." Feb. 11 at 7 a.m., "Sons Zorcale." Feb. 12 at 7 a.m., "To Catch A Thief." Feb. 13 at 7 a.m., "This Property Is Condemned."

**Christian's Jakarta show**

Christian Bautista will perform for his Indonesian fans at Times Square in Jakarta on Feb. 21. While in Jakarta, Christian will be featured on the "MTV Ampuh" and "Dahsyat" TV shows.

**Karylle is Maria Makiling**

Television star and singer, Karylle, was chosen by the University of the Philippines Alumni Association (UPAA) conservation advocacy group, The Mount Makiling Foundation, to personify Maria Makiling, the legendary diwata who is supposed to protect the Los Baños landmark.

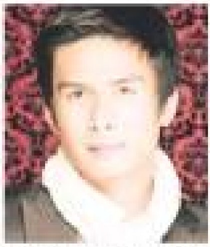
Karylle's father, Dr. Modesto Tatlonghari, hails from Calamba, Laguna.

Mount Makiling is an endangered watershed site acknowledged globally for its exotic flora and fauna. However, through the years, there has been a cyclone increase of human population and damage to this important ecological landmark.

To draw greater attention to its conservation effort, the advocacy group decided to popularize the myth of Maria Makiling so that the climate becomes synonymous with the fabled mountain. Therefore, abuse on the mountain will henceforth be considered a personal affront to her.

On Feb. 12, a select group of visual artists, photographers and sculptors from Manila, Laguna and Batangas will artistically fuse Karylle as Maria Makiling, the guardian of this natural wonder.

Among the artists organized by Romy Carlos are Chelsy Ecoy, Jess Abrera, Angel Cacnio, Cris Cruz, Tessie Dedtoiles,



BAUTISTA. Performs in Indonesia on Feb. 21.

Fred Liongson, Josiah Refoma, Adi Baens Santos, Boy Valino, Mar Bongalos, Gig de Pio, Ding Hidalgo, Pinky Monsanti, PR Santiago and Janice Young. Sculptors from Paete have been invited. Renowned photographers, Donald Tapan and Sonny Yabao, will likewise participate.

Local poets have also been invited to laud the virtues of Maria and Mt. Makiling.

Gov. Ningning Lazaro of Laguna and Gov. Vilma Santos of Batangas, as well as Chancellor Rey Luis Velasco will render speeches of support at 9:30 a.m. at the Botanical Garden of UP Los Baños. Dalise and Dusit Ong will perform inspiring songs about nature, along with UP Los Baños choral groups. The program is coordinated by Bebs Cervantes.

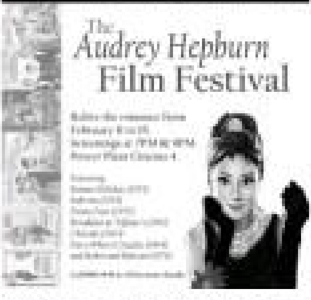
The advocacy group is headed by Dr. Bellaluz Cabana. UPAA is headed by regent Francisco S. Nemenzo.

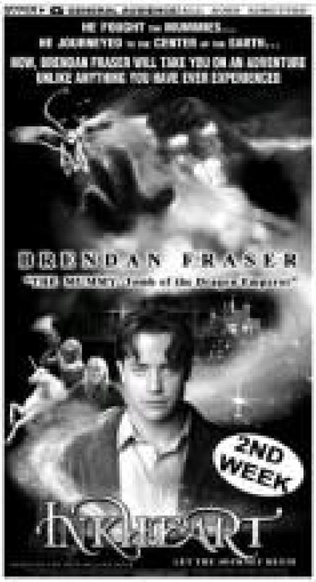
The public is invited; entrance fees to the garden have been waived.

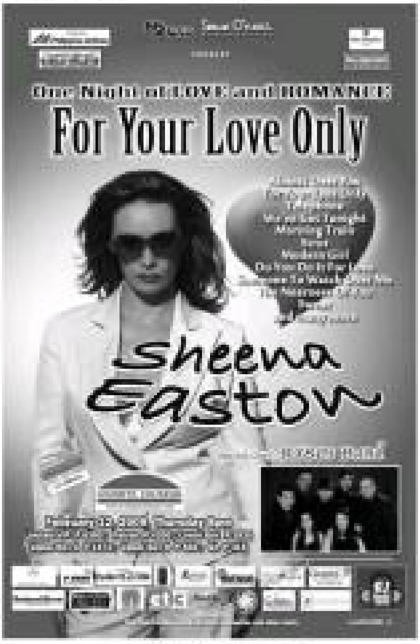


KARYLLE. Pitches for the protection and preservation of Mt. Makiling's rich flora and fauna.











AMPIL. Performs at Music Museum on Feb. 13 and 14.

# Joanna Ampil stars in first solo concert

By Edmund L. Sicam

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF A 17-year-old high school graduate without any professional experience in theater and the music industry to land the plum role of Kim in the hit "Miss Saigon" musical?

### Against all odds

### Barricade scene

### Different approach





THE FIRST Gentleman (center, seated) with the "Bagong Puso Mulas sa Puso" team.

# Gift of life

STREET SMART



Mandy Navasero

### Recipients

### Degree



# All about love on 'Oprah'

MONTAGE



LAUREL. Sings love songs in his inimitably ardent way.

### 'Milk'

### 'The Future is Wild'

### Home for the Angels anniversary

### 'Be My Valentine'

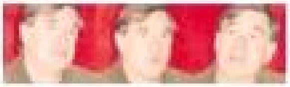
### 'The Great Balladeers'

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Dramatic showcase /F4

# SATURDAY Special




# Van Sant on directing Penn's Oscar-nominated performance



LOS ANGELES—Sean Penn and Tom Cruise in "Milk"? That's the dream casting that director Gus Van Sant had in mind when he was making the film project that would eventually metamorphose as "Milk," the Academy Award-nominated biopic that some say will give Sean Penn his second Best Actor Oscar award.

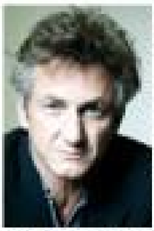
ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales

## Meetings

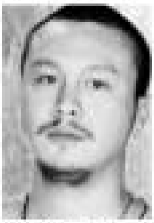
## Footage



PENN: Studied Harvey Milk's speeches, debates, pictures, reel, interviews and voice recordings.



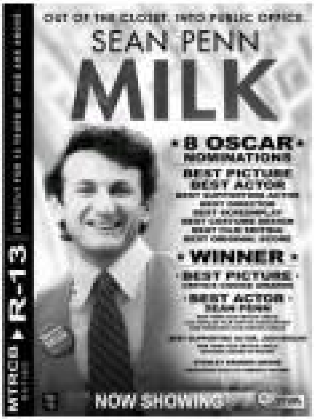
# 'Jay' exposes some news shows' exploitative version of the 'truth'

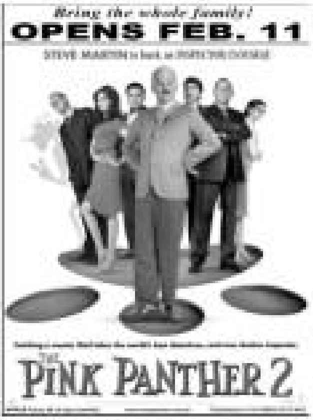


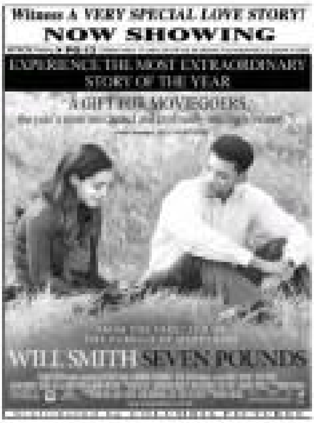






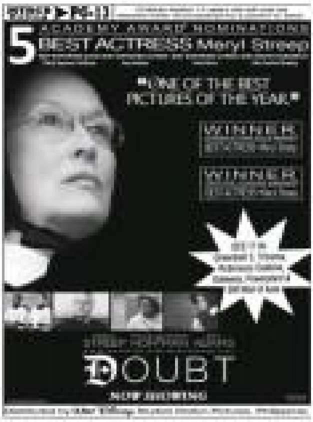


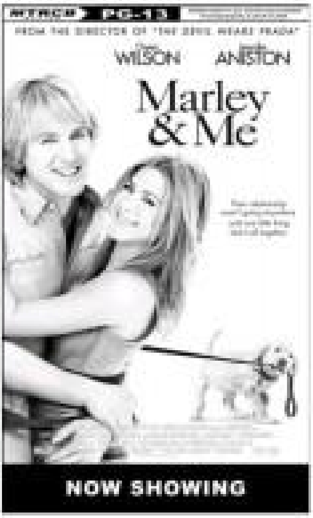



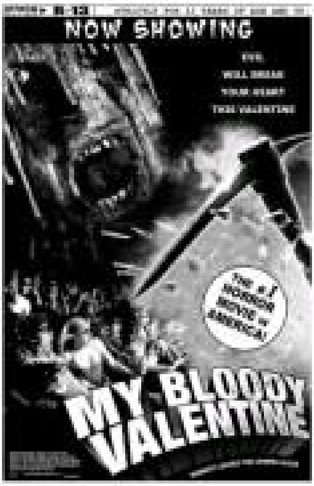









NOW SHOWING

# Dramatic showcase



STREEP AND HOFFMAN. Colorful potpourri of distinctive acting styles.

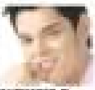
# Ditsi Carolino finds love in the midst of a hunger strike



CAROLINO. Tackles plight of farmers in "Lupang Hinarang."



# Richard looks forward to new challenges



GUTIERREZ. Plays Zorro in upcoming TV series.

# Linkin Park comes up with slick sound in live recording





LINKIN PARK. The boys are here to stay.

# Reunion

LOTUS POND

# Van Sant on directing . . .